

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A method of correcting a deformity by performing an osteotomy in a bone at an osteotomy site using a bone plate, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) resecting the bone from a first side of the bone to a second side of the bone so as to leave a bony hinge on the second side;
- (b) opening the resection to a height at which the deformity is corrected;
- (c) placing the bone plate in a location such that the bone plate spans the open resection; and
- (d) packing the resection with at least two separate wedge shaped sections of material.

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2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of packing the resection includes the steps of inserting a smaller inner section of wedge shaped material behind the bone plate, and inserting two larger outer sections of wedge shaped material on either side of the smaller wedge section within the resection.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the two wedge shaped sections of material have outer surfaces formed of cortical bone.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of inserting the smaller inner section takes place prior to placing the bone plate.

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5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the material comprises allograft bone.

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6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the material comprises synthetic bone.